

Teamwork

Agreement with Coast Guard may mean grants, training

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DUXBURY — They've always worked together, but a new agreement between the harbormaster and the United States Coast Guard formalizes the working relationship between the two agencies.

As Harbormaster Don Beers put it, "The Coast Guard needs us, and we need the Coast Guard."

That need is laid out in a new memorandum of understanding that allows Duxbury's local water police to enforce federal laws as well as the 500-yard exclusion zone around the Pilgrim nuclear power station.

Even though the exclusion zone around the power plant doesn't extend into Duxbury's waters, the harbormaster department regularly patrols there, Beers said.

"Jurisdiction almost doesn't exist on the water," he said. Plymouth and Duxbury, and the Coast Guard, have always called on each other to enforce the law on the sea.

The memorandum does one thing that the less formal arrangement didn't. It gives the harbormaster the ability to get grants and training that will further his office's ability to protect Duxbury's waters.



FILE PHOTO

Harbormaster Don Beers

"Our department and the town of Plymouth are in high regard when it comes to the Coast Guard," Beers said.

In fact that regard is high enough that, when the memorandum was signed, the commander of the U.S. Coast Guard District based in Boston came down to sign the agreement, Beers said. A first in the harbormaster's 32 years protecting Duxbury waters.

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